



ALASKA AT-LARGE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Winning the Middle Is the Only Path to Victory

In Alaska, there is no partisan majority to inherit — only a middle to win. Voters here have unaffiliated themselves from both parties in record numbers, and they are rewarding candidates who work with both sides, not one.

63%

Nearly two-thirds of Alaska's registered voters are unaffiliated with either major party.

Per state voter-registration statistics, the largest voting bloc in Alaska belongs to no party at all — and this survey's sample mirrors it, with 65% registered as Independent, No Party Preference, or "other."

96%

Say federal elected officials in Washington "can do better."

Not a partisan complaint — a pox on both their houses. Just 3% think Washington is doing fine at its job.

76%

Both parties are underwater — but a politician who works with both sides is beloved.

A majority of Alaska voters hold a net-negative view of *each* major party. Offer them "a politician willing to work with both sides of the aisle," and three-quarters respond favorably.



24%

The message they most need to hear: a clear commitment to work across the aisle.

Leading a five-message field, the top thing Alaskans need to hear from an independent candidate is "a clear commitment to work across the aisle with both parties to bring the best ideas to the forefront and get things done" — a strong plurality ahead of cost-of-living, civility, and border messages.

7 in 10

See independents as "a necessary, stabilizing voice" — the adult in the room.

70% agree that electing a few independents could "lower the temperature and bring both sides together to get things done." Only 12% say the two-party system isn't broken.

6 in 10

Prefer a candidate who does not caucus with either major party.

60% want a representative who "independently evaluates every single bill... based entirely on what is best for the people of their district" — double the 30% who prefer a candidate who caucuses exclusively within one party.

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Survey of 820 registered Alaska voters likely to vote in the November 2026 election, fielded September 1–6, 2026. Margin of error ± 3.4 percentage points. Statewide party-registration figure from Alaska voter-registration statistics. Independent Leadership Council.



INDEPENDENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL • STATEWIDE SURVEY OF ALASKA

Alaska Statewide Survey

Topline Results

Survey Methodology

Sponsor	Independent Leadership Council
Population	Registered Alaska voters likely to vote in the November 2026 election
Sample size	n = 820
Margin of error	±3.4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level
Field dates	September 1–6, 2026
Mode	Mixed mode (28% live phone, 66% SMS-to-web, 6% web panel)
Screening	All respondents are registered voters screened for likelihood of voting in the November 2026 election.
Weighting	Results are weighted to reflect the expected composition of the likely electorate.

Rounding: percentages are shown to one decimal place and may not sum to exactly 100.0%. Long question and response wordings are abbreviated in places.

Full Topline

Unless a base note says otherwise, the base is all 820 respondents.

I. SAMPLE, MODE AND SCREENING

SCREEN1

Are you, or is anyone in your household, employed by the news media, a market research firm, an elected official, or actively involved with political campaigns?

Response	%
No	100.0%

SCREEN2

Are you currently registered to vote?

Response	%
Yes	100.0%

SCREEN3

How likely are you to vote in the November 2026 midterm elections?

Response	%
Very Likely	91.0%
Somewhat Likely	9.0%

SCREEN4

Thinking about the upcoming election this November, which of the following best describes the MAIN reason you are motivated to turn out and vote?

Response	%
There is a Specific Candidate Running Who I Really Like and Want to Support.	7.1%
I Am Primarily Voting to Oppose a Specific Candidate and Make Sure They Do not Win.	6.0%
I Always Vote Because I See It as My Civic Duty, Regardless of Who is on the Ballot.	70.2%
I Am Motivated to Vote Because of a Specific Issue or Policy That is Deeply Important to Me.	13.1%
I Never Usually Vote, But I Am Thinking That I Will This Year	2.2%
Don't Know/Refused	1.2%

REGID

According to your official voter registration, how are you currently registered to vote?

Response	%
As a Democrat	12.0%
As an Independent, No Party Preference or 'other'	65.0%
As a Republican	23.0%
Refused	0.0%

II. VOTE INTENTION AND CANDIDATES

AKAL_1

If the election for Alaska's At-Large U.S. House seat were held today, how would you rank the candidates? Please rank the candidates in order of preference, where 1 is your First Choice, 2 is your Second Choice, 3 is your Third Choice, and 4 is your Fourth Choice. You may rank as many or as few candidates as you choose. FIRST CHOICE

Response	%
Nick Begich, Republican	44.2%
Bill Hill, Nonpartisan	36.6%
Eric Hafner, Democrat	7.4%
James C. McDermott, Libertarian	1.9%
Don't Know/Refused	9.9%

AKAL_2

If the election for Alaska's At-Large U.S. House seat were held today, how would you rank the candidates? Please rank the candidates in order of preference, where 1 is your First Choice, 2 is your Second Choice, 3 is your Third Choice, and 4 is your Fourth Choice. You may rank as many or as few candidates as you choose. SECOND CHOICE

Response	%
James C. McDermott, Libertarian	15.2%
Bill Hill, Nonpartisan	11.8%
Eric Hafner, Democrat	10.7%
Nick Begich, Republican	5.0%
Don't Know/Refused	0.0%

AKAL_3

If the election for Alaska's At-Large U.S. House seat were held today, how would you rank the candidates? Please rank the candidates in order of preference, where 1 is your First Choice, 2 is your Second Choice, 3 is your Third Choice, and 4 is your Fourth Choice. You may rank as many or as few candidates as you choose. THIRD CHOICE

Response	%
James C. McDermott, Libertarian	17.9%
Bill Hill, Nonpartisan	5.9%
Nick Begich, Republican	5.0%
Eric Hafner, Democrat	4.8%
Don't Know/Refused	0.0%

AKAL_4

If the election for Alaska's At-Large U.S. House seat were held today, how would you rank the candidates? Please rank the candidates in order of preference, where 1 is your First Choice, 2 is your Second Choice, 3 is your Third Choice, and 4 is your Fourth Choice. You may rank as many or as few candidates as you choose. FOURTH CHOICE

Response	%
Eric Hafner, Democrat	13.0%
Nick Begich, Republican	9.9%
James C. McDermott, Libertarian	2.9%
Bill Hill, Nonpartisan	2.5%
Don't Know/Refused	0.0%

AKAL — (RANKED-CHOICE TABULATION, DERIVED)

Derived ranked-choice tabulation, Round 3 (final round). Ballots ranking neither remaining candidate are exhausted. Percentages are of the 739 continuing ballots (739 of 820 respondents).

Response	%
Nick Begich, Republican	50.3%
Bill Hill, Nonpartisan	46.5%
Exhausted (No Further Preference)	3.2%

AK2

I will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. BILL HILL

Response	%
Very Favorable	13.4%
Somewhat Favorable	30.0%
Somewhat Unfavorable	8.2%
Very Unfavorable	14.6%
Never Heard of	15.8%
Unsure	18.0%

AK4

I will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. NICK BEGICH

Response	%
Very Favorable	24.6%
Somewhat Favorable	26.4%
Somewhat Unfavorable	12.2%
Very Unfavorable	31.8%
Never Heard of	0.8%
Unsure	4.2%

III. JOB APPROVAL

STA

Do you approve or disapprove of the job President Donald Trump is doing?

Response	%
Strongly Approve	26.7%
Somewhat Approve	15.3%
Somewhat Disapprove	8.5%
Strongly Disapprove	48.8%
Don't Know/Refused	0.7%

GSCA

Do you approve or disapprove of the job the U.S. Congress is doing?

Response	%
Strongly Approve	3.1%
Somewhat Approve	20.8%
Somewhat Disapprove	22.4%
Strongly Disapprove	50.7%
Don't Know/Refused	3.0%

IV. OUTLOOK AND THE STATE OF DEMOCRACY

GPS

At this time next year, do you think that you will personally be better or worse off than you are today?

Response	%
Much Better Off	11.3%
Somewhat Better Off	42.7%
Somewhat Worse Off	17.6%
Much Worse Off	8.1%
Don't Know/Refused	20.4%

GSAS

At this time next year, do you think America will be better or worse off than it is today?

Response	%
Much Better Off	11.5%
Somewhat Better Off	31.8%
Somewhat Worse Off	20.5%
Much Worse Off	18.0%
Don't Know/Refused	18.1%

MSOH

Moving on... Overall, how would you rate the current health of American democracy?

Response	%
Very Healthy	3.7%
Somewhat Healthy	17.0%
Somewhat Unhealthy	33.5%
Very Unhealthy	44.0%
Don't Know/Refused	1.8%

MSEO

How do you think federally elected officials in Washington, DC are doing at their job?

Response	%
They're Doing Fine	2.6%
We Can Do Better	96.2%
Don't Know/Refused	1.2%

VI. FAVORABILITY

04FV001

I will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. DONALD TRUMP

Response	%
Very Favorable	29.1%
Somewhat Favorable	13.2%
Somewhat Unfavorable	8.4%
Very Unfavorable	48.3%
Never Heard of	0.2%
Unsure	0.8%

04FV002

I will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

Response	%
Very Favorable	12.1%
Somewhat Favorable	33.3%
Somewhat Unfavorable	13.5%
Very Unfavorable	38.4%
Never Heard of	0.2%
Unsure	2.5%

04FV003

I will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Response	%
Very Favorable	6.3%
Somewhat Favorable	27.8%
Somewhat Unfavorable	19.2%
Very Unfavorable	42.1%
Never Heard of	0.7%
Unsure	3.8%

04FV004

I will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. A POLITICIAN WILLING TO WORK WITH BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE

Response	%
Very Favorable	40.8%
Somewhat Favorable	35.4%
Somewhat Unfavorable	11.9%
Very Unfavorable	4.0%
Never Heard of	4.5%
Unsure	3.4%

04FV101

I will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. A BIPARTISAN CANDIDATE

Response	%
Very Favorable	17.0%
Somewhat Favorable	35.1%
Somewhat Unfavorable	15.9%
Very Unfavorable	6.4%
Never Heard of	6.3%
Unsure	19.3%

04FV102

I will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. A NON-PARTISAN CANDIDATE

Response	%
Very Favorable	11.6%
Somewhat Favorable	35.9%
Somewhat Unfavorable	16.5%
Very Unfavorable	6.0%
Never Heard of	7.9%
Unsure	22.1%

04FV103

I will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. A POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE

Response	%
Very Favorable	16.1%
Somewhat Favorable	45.5%
Somewhat Unfavorable	11.4%
Very Unfavorable	5.4%
Never Heard of	6.0%
Unsure	15.5%

VII. INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES AND VOTER OUTLOOK

MSRV

Thinking about your role as a voter in the upcoming 2026 elections, which of the following best describes how you intend to use your vote to ensure the continued health of our democracy?

Response	%
I Will Vote for Candidates Who Will Go to Washington to Work and Vote with Republicans to Advance a Conservative Agenda and Ensure That Democratic Policies Do not Pass.	30.0%
I Will Vote for Candidates Who Will Go to Washington to Work and Vote with Democrats to Advance a Progressive Agenda and Ensure That Republican Policies Do not Pass.	15.7%
I Will Look Past Party Labels to Vote for Candidates Who Prioritize Bipartisan Cooperation and Seek to Modernize the System to Make It More Accountable and Stable for the People.	43.6%
I Do not Believe That My Choice of Candidate Has a Significant Impact on the Long-term Health of Our Democracy.	6.2%
Unsure / Other	4.6%

GSTI

Regardless of your past voting history or political affiliation, which of the following do you find to be the most compelling reason to support an independent candidate?

Response	%
The 'problem Solver' Argument: Independent-minded Leaders Are Free to Look at Problems From Many Angles and Find the Best Solution, Rather Than Being Forced to View Every Issue Through a Single Partisan Lens.	22.5%
The 'competition' Argument: in Every Other Aspect of American Life, Choice and Competition Yield Better Results, Ending the Two-party Duopoly Would Force Politicians to Work Harder to Earn Our Support.	5.3%
The 'gridlock' Argument: Because They Don't Answer to Party Leadership, Independents Are Uniquely Positioned to Bridge the Divide, De-escalate Anger, and Force the Two Sides to Work Together.	6.8%
The 'people Over Party' Argument: Political Parties Have Become Too Focused on Special Interests and Self-preservation, an Independent is Beholden Only to Their Constituents, not a National Party Agenda.	28.4%
The 'revolution' Argument: the Two-party Establishment is Fundamentally Corrupt and Beyond Repair, Electing Independents is a Revolution That Will Strip Power From Party Elites and Completely Overhaul the System.	11.4%
None of These / Other	17.8%
Unsure	7.8%

GSTL

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS OR PRIORITIES WOULD YOU MOST NEED TO HEAR FROM AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE RUNNING FOR OFFICE TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER SUPPORTING THEIR CANDIDACY?

Response	%
A Clear Commitment to Work Across the Aisle with Both Parties to Bring the Best Ideas to the Forefront and Get Things Done.	23.5%
A Promise to Listen to Regular People and be Beholden Strictly to Local Voters and Constituents, not National Political Parties or Special Interests.	15.1%
A Focus on Lowering the Toxic Political Rhetoric, Reducing Partisan Division, and Restoring Common Sense and Sanity to Government.	16.7%
A Concrete Plan to Immediately Lower the Daily Cost of Living, Combat Inflation, and Rein in Wasteful Government Spending.	17.2%
A Common-sense Commitment to Strictly Enforce Border Security and Fix the Immigration System Without Playing Political Games.	10.3%
None of These / Other	13.2%
Unsure	4.0%

GSSA

Which of the following statements comes closer to your own opinion about independent candidates running for elected office, even if neither is exactly right?

Response	%
Independent Candidates Offer a New, Fresh Perspective to Move the Country Forward, Free From Partisan Gridlock and Beholden Only to the Voters.'	49.9%
Independent Candidates Just Pull Votes Away From a Major-party Candidate, Ultimately Helping the Side That the Voter Least Wanted to Win.'	34.4%
Unsure	15.7%

GSSI

Which of the following statements comes closer to your own view about the role independent candidates could play in our political system, even if neither is exactly right?

Response	%
Electing a Few Independent Candidates Could Provide a Necessary, Stabilizing Voice, Acting as the Adult in the Room to Lower the Temperature and Bring Both Sides Together to Get Things Done.'	70.0%
The Current System is not Broken, and the Two Major Parties Remain the Most Effective and Stable Way to Pass Laws and Represent the Country.'	12.4%
Unsure	17.6%

GSSZ

Which of the following candidates would you prefer to represent your district in the U.S. House of Representatives, even if neither is exactly perfect?

Response	%
A Candidate Who Goes to Washington to Caucus, Vote, and Work on Legislative Committees Exclusively Within One Political Party, Giving Them More Institutional Power to Pass Legislation.	29.6%
A Candidate Who Does Not Caucus with Either Major Political Party, so That They Can Independently Evaluate Every Single Bill That Crosses Their Desk Based Entirely on What is Best for the People of Their District.	59.8%
A Candidate Who Has Pledged not to Join with the Republicans or Democrats in Washington and Will Remain Independent From Both Parties.	10.6%
Unsure	0.0%

GSTL1

Now that you have heard and thought more about independent candidates, how likely are you to consider switching your vote or supporting an independent candidate in the upcoming election?

Response	%
I Am Already Planning to Vote for the Independent Candidate.	24.3%
I Would Seriously Consider Looking Into the Independent Candidate and Potentially Switching My Vote.	21.0%
I Might Look Into the Independent Candidate, But I Am Unlikely to Change My Vote.	19.7%
Hearing This Does Not Change My Mind, and I Am Firmly Staying with My Original Choice.	28.2%
Unsure	6.8%

VIII. POLITICAL IDENTITY

PARTYID

In politics today, and regardless of how you are registered, do you consider yourself to be a...

Response	%
Strong Democrat	11.0%
Not so Strong Democrat	2.6%
Independent Leaning Democrat	17.8%
Independent	19.4%
Independent Leaning Republican	22.6%
Not so Strong Republican	3.6%
Strong Republican	17.8%
Other	4.4%
Don't Know/Refused	0.8%

PSY

When it comes to your political philosophy, where would you place yourself on the following scale?

Response	%
0 - Very Liberal / Progressive	11.1%
1	2.1%
2	6.0%
3	5.9%
4	6.5%
5 - Moderate / Centrist	25.8%
6	4.5%
7	6.2%
8	9.5%
9	3.8%
10 - Staunch / Strong Conservative	18.5%

Mean: 5.53 · SE: 3.00

PSEO

In the perfect world, where on the following scale, would you like to see America's elected officials stand politically?

Response	%
0 - Strongly Along Democratic Lines	12.0%
1	1.1%
2	6.9%
3	4.1%
4	5.2%
5 - Centrist / Independent	32.5%
6	5.0%
7	6.2%
8	8.0%
9	3.7%
10 - Strongly Along Republican Lines	15.1%

Mean: 5.33 · SE: 2.89

IDEOLOGY

Now just a few questions to make sure we have a representative sample of participants: Thinking for a moment about your social, economic, and political views...Do you consider yourself to be...

Response	%
Very Liberal	9.3%
Somewhat Liberal	16.4%
Moderate	26.3%
Somewhat Conservative	26.7%
Very Conservative	14.9%
Libertarian	2.3%
Unsure	4.0%

IX. DEMOGRAPHICS

QGENDER

Gender

Response	%
Female	51.0%
Male	49.0%
Other	0.0%

COUNTY (GROUPED)

In which county do you currently reside?

Response	%
Anchorage Municipality	40.0%
Matanuska-Susitna	16.0%
Fairbanks North Star	13.0%
Kenai Peninsula	8.0%
Juneau	5.0%

Response	%
Other	18.0%

RACE

What is your race or ethnicity?

Multiple mentions possible; percentages may sum to more than 100.

Response	%
White or Caucasian	68.2%
Black or African American	4.2%
Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	6.9%
Asian or Pacific Islander	3.3%
Native American or American Indian	17.9%
Other	8.5%
Refused	1.5%

QAGE

In what year were you born? AGE GROUP

Response	%
18 to 24	6.0%
25 to 34	13.0%
35 to 44	17.0%
45 to 54	16.0%
55 to 64	18.0%
65 or Older	30.0%

Mean: 55.19 · SE: 20.74

EDUCATION

What is the highest level of formal education that you have completed?

Response	%
High School or Less	28.0%
Some College, Associate Degree, or Technical School	38.0%
4-year College Graduate (Bachelor's Degree) or Higher	34.0%
Don't Know/Refused	0.0%

INCOME

We want to classify households into broad income groups only. Would you estimate your total annual household income to be...?

Response	%
Less Than \$30,000	9.4%
\$30,000 to \$54,999	11.1%
\$55,000 to \$100,000	24.9%
More Than \$100,000	46.2%
Prefer not to Answer	8.5%

Mean (thousand \$): 179.76 · SE: 122.62

LGBTQ

Do you consider yourself to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning?

Response	%
Yes	12.1%
No	80.3%
Unsure	2.4%
Prefer not to Answer	5.2%

MARITAL

What would best describe your marital status?

Response	%
Single or Never Married	16.9%
Married	59.8%
Separated	1.2%
Divorced	10.9%
Widowed	6.3%
Other	4.9%

CHILDREN

Do you have children currently living in your household?

Response	%
Yes	32.5%
No	64.5%
Refused	3.1%

NEIGHBORHOOD

Would you best describe the neighborhood or area you live in as...

Response	%
Urban	25.0%
Suburban	29.7%
Rural	42.3%
Unsure	3.0%

401K

Do you invest into an IRA or 401k?

Response	%
Yes	71.7%
No	28.3%

OCCUPATION

Please describe your current occupational status.

Response	%
Employed (Government)	14.7%
Employed (Private Sector)	31.5%
Small Business Owner	11.2%

Response	%
Student	0.3%
Homemaker	3.6%
Retired	29.1%
Unemployed	4.5%
Other	3.6%
Unsure	1.5%

HOMEOWNER

Do you currently own (outright/pay mortgage) your residence?

Response	%
Own (Outright/pay Mortgage)	78.9%
I Do not Own My Residence (Rent/other)	21.1%

RACE/ETHNICITY (RECODED)

Response	%
White (Non-hispanic)	65.0%
Native American	15.0%
All Other	20.0%

Prepared by MainFrame for the Independent Leadership Council.